

REMARKS

Claims 12-17 are pending. Claims 12 and 15 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found at least, in Applicants' originally filed specification. It is believed that no new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over Barnard et al. ("Barnard"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12, as amended, recites a combination of elements including "a plurality of network devices connected to a network, each of the plurality of network devices transmitting and receiving data through the network; and a managing device configured to manage the network based on network state information, wherein when a new device is connected to the network, the managing device determines whether the new device is to be a new network device or a device managing the network, and if the new device is determined to be the device managing the network, the managing device transmits the network state information to the new device." Claim 15 recites similar features as claim 12 in a varying scope. Barnard does not disclose these features.

In Applicant's embodied invention, the managing device determines that the new device can be a new network device or a device managing the network. Thereafter, when the new device is determined to be the device managing the network, the managing device transmits the network state information to the new device.

By contrast, Barnard discloses that the presence of each new network device on the network is automatically detected. Barnard further discloses that upon the detection of a new network device, configuration information and capability information regarding the detected network device are obtained. Barnard discloses that the master device and slave devices are designated. Also, Barnard discloses a method of determining a master device. To determine the master device when a new network management device is booting up, the local services directory is queried to determine the master network management device of the current network. Here, if the master network management device is found, Barnard's system starts processing the other enabled network. On the other hand, if the master network management device is not found, a new master network management is created.

That is, Barnard does not determine whether a new device is a new network device or a device managing the network. Rather, Barnard merely discloses that one of network work management device 20 and network management device 35 can be designated as a master device and the other designated as a slave device. Barnard discloses having two network management devices with one of the two network management device being designated as a master management device or a slave management device, and does not disclose determining the new device to be either a network device or a device managing the network. Therefore, Barnard does not disclose "wherein when a new device is connected to the network, the managing device determines whether the new device is to be a new network device or a device managing the network," as recited in claim 12.

Further, Barnard does not disclose "if the new device is determined to be the device managing the network, the managing device transmits the network state information to the new device," as recited in claim 12. Rather, Barnard discloses a fixed disk 50 of the network

management device 20, where the fixed disk 50 includes directories 54. Here, the directories 54 further include device management directories 70 which store network identification and configuration information for each printing device managed by the network management device 20. That is, Barnard merely discloses that the network management device 20 stores network identification and configuration information for each printing device that the network management device 20 manages. Further, Barnard is silent as to transmitting the network state information to any device managing the network. Therefore, Barnard does not disclose “if the new device is determined to be the device managing the network, the managing device transmits the network state information to the new device,” as recited in claim 12.

As such, Barnard does not disclose the features of claims 12 and 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 15, and their dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

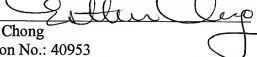
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong, Registration No. 40,953 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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